

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



November 1993

Volume 6, Number 10

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

New Funds for Learner Events

Literacy learner groups in B.C. are invited to apply to take part in "Learners Talking to Learners," a 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared project.

The sixth annual series of learner events will provide an opportunity for groups to plan and host events specific to their region. According to Project Coordinator Joyce Cameron, "Learner Events can be workshops, plays, conferences, open houses, or many other things. In the past, learners have used the events to do things like make videos, hold meetings, build floats, give puppet shows or go on field trips."

Cameron says also, the events "give students a chance ... to talk about issues they think are important and experiences that they have in common." They "can also be used to let other people know about the problems that many adults have with reading and writing and ... the programs that can help them."

The guidelines for the events include:

- ❖ any group of adult literacy learners in B.C. may apply

- ❖ at least half of the planning committee for an event must be learners

- ❖ events must take place between February 1 and June 15, 1994

- ❖ applications must be mailed by December 20, 1993.

Proposals are assessed by the Provincial Learner Events Advisory Committee, composed of learners, and literacy and English as a second language practitioners from throughout B.C. Half of this advisory committee will consist of learners.

Application packages were distributed to the literacy field during the last week of October 1993.

For information, or to obtain an application package, contact:

Janet Hall
Learners Talking to Learners
c/o 707 - 12th Street
New Westminster, B.C.
V3M 4J7
Phone: 522-7911
Fax: 522-8975 ☐

Co-op Housing Fed Winds Up Literacy Project

The Cooperative Housing Federation of B.C. (CHF/B.C.) changed the educational and resource services it provides to its members as a result of a six-month pilot literacy project recently completed in the Lower Mainland.

The project, called "Pathways to Participation," took place from January through June 1993 at three co-op housing sites in Vancouver and Richmond. It was designed to identify the barriers to communication within co-ops, and assist co-ops in implementing changes in their written and verbal communications.

CHF/B.C. is a provincial association of housing co-ops that was created in 1982 to share information and promote non-profit co-op housing in B.C. It provides education, investment and information services to housing co-ops in the province.

The pilot project took place at Maya Co-op in Richmond; Four Sisters Co-op in Vancouver's downtown east side; and Killarney Gardens in east Vancouver. Both the Maya and Four Sisters Co-ops have a

substantial immigrant population.

According to a report by project coordinator Dawn Lyons, the project did not fulfill two of its initial objectives -- training literacy tutors and piloting a co-op based literacy program -- because "co-op members did not define low literacy levels as a major barrier to communication."

The report says participating co-op members identified "a wide range of barriers to co-op communication, only one of which was literacy.... English as a second language and co-op structures and procedures were seen as more important barriers to communication."

As a result of the project, CHF/B.C. has, however:

- ❖ held a workshop on plain language writing for its members
- ❖ expanded its resource library to include information on literacy, plain language and multicultural issues
- ❖ developed a set of plain language leaflets available to new co-op members as orientation information

For more information, contact:

Rosanne Hille
Co-operative Housing Federation of
British Columbia
4676 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C.
Phone: 879-5111
Fax: 879-4611 ☐

1994/95 Cost-shared Project Funding

The Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour and the National Literacy Secretariat are preparing to invite applications for 1994/1995 B.C. literacy cost-shared project funding.

Grants for adult literacy projects have been funded through a federal/provincial agreement since 1987. A total of 35 projects was funded in B.C. for 1993/94.

Mary Waddington, Coordinator, Literacy and Adult Basic Education Programs, Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, says that, "The decision to begin the 1994/95 literacy cost-shared process has been made in anticipation that provincial and federal funds will once again be available."

Application packages for 1994/95 will be distributed at the beginning of December. The deadline for applications will be February 25, 1994.

For further information, contact:

Mary Waddington, Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Ministry of Skills, Training and
Labour
Second Floor - 838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1H8
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

THE LITERACY MATERIALS BULLETIN



The fall 1993 edition of the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* features reviews of a variety of recommended materials, including poetry, oral histories, math and spelling guides.

The *Bulletin* is the cooperative effort of a 10-member committee formed in 1989 to review and field-test literacy materials. The committee consists of instructors from fundamental level adult literacy programs around B.C.

With this issue, the committee welcomes two new members: Katie Molloy, VALT Instructor, Adult Basic Education Department, College of New Caledonia, Quesnel, replaces Paula Davies, VALT Coordinator, College of New Caledonia, Prince George; and Brenda Giles, Basic Education student, King Edward Campus, Vancouver Community College, joins the committee as a resource member.

Three of the materials reviewed are published by Britain's Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit (ALBSU). These are, "Helping Adults to Spell;" "Hats," an illustrated book of poetry; and "The Starter Pack," a folder of materials for both beginning and experienced tutors.

Copies of the current *Bulletin*, as well as the previous seven issues, are available on request from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

For more information on the *Bulletin*, contact:

Laurie Gould, Chair
Literacy Materials Committee
c/o Basic Education Department
Vancouver Community College
King Edward Campus
1155 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 1Y8
Phone: 871-7364
Fax: 871-7100 ☐

PLEASE NOTE

The fall 1993 *Literacy Materials Bulletin*, on page 23, cites the availability of a free plain language kit of consumer information. The correct ordering information for this kit is:

Consumer Policy
Industry Canada
#1400 - 800 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6Z 2H8
Phone: 666-5019

OUR OTHER SERVICES

As well as producing this newsletter, the Adult Literacy Contact Centre has services for all B.C.:

we give information and encouragement by phone to adults who want to know about adult basic education opportunities in their own community;

we provide literacy information to the non-profit and community-based sector, business, labour, the media, all levels of government and the public at large; and

we refer volunteer tutors to adult literacy programs.

Phone free from anywhere in B.C.

1-800-663-1293

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8

1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.

684-0624 Lower Mainland

684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Tears on a Sidewalk: Seeing the Past Change the Future

Coming Together: Unfolding Our Thoughts on Publishing

These two publications are part of a 1992/1993 B.C. literacy cost-shared project, partnered by Camosun College and the Victoria READ Society. *Tears on a Sidewalk* and *Coming Together* were produced by the Wordstream Learners' Publishing Group (a project of the Victoria READ Society). A third publication of this project will "meet the needs of native learners."

Wordstream is a learners' publishing group representing different literacy programs on lower Vancouver Island. Members work together on all stages of the decision-making and production of the books.

"When it came to school I avoided it as much as possible. You see it was easier for me to fight than to read. I had my time in shedding tears on the sidewalk."

These are the words of Randy, from, "How I Became Illiterate," one of the selections in *Tears on a Sidewalk*.

The booklet contains stories, anecdotes, poetry, and personal reminiscences on themes ranging from hobbies and family to the difficulties some students have had in the classroom or on the job. Randy's piece, for example, which he calls "an adventure through my mind," describes childhood school experiences and adult problems with drugs, alcohol, and marriage.

Black and white photographs of the writers accompany many of the selections.

The intent of the second book in the series, *Coming Together*, is to provide step-by-step instructions on how to publish a book. This 28-page volume records the Wordstream group's publishing process, around topics such as "gathering a group together and making decisions," "proofreading and editing," and "going to the printer." It is liberally illustrated with photographs of the process, taken by group members themselves.

The learners in both books come from: Camosun College, Victoria; the Learner's Network (Project Literacy Victoria); PALS Program (Saanich School District); Literacy Plus (Saanich Adult Education Centre); and the Victoria READ Society.

To order, contact:

Suzanne Ives
Wordstream Coordinator
Victoria READ Society
720 Linden Avenue
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 4G7
Phone: 388-7225
Fax: 386-8330

Our Words II: Stories by Project Literacy Kelowna Learners

"All through my life I have had a learning disability and I have felt very nervous and incompetent around others, I have had difficulty learning basic skills taught in the school system. It took all the courage I had, but I did it, I called Project Literacy."

This is from "Building Self-Esteem," one of the 61 pieces of writing in this collection reflecting the diversity of experience of members of the Project Literacy Kelowna Society learners' group.

The group's first publication, *Our Words* in 1990, "proved to be a great inspiration to the learners, who, after seeing themselves in print for the first time, picked up their pens once again to produce *Our Words II*."

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"Publications" from page 4

The writing includes short stories, poems and essays, on subjects such as travel, jobs and family relationships. Whimsical black and white drawings by Project Literacy Kelowna tutor Charley Adam bring to life many of the anecdotes.

The Project Literacy Kelowna Society, incorporated in 1986, "seeks to make available basic literacy instruction through one-on-one tutoring. To date, the society has served over 350 individuals in the Central Okanagan Valley."

Our Words II is available (at a cost of \$6.50 plus postage) from:

Linda Sherwood
Project Literacy Kelowna Society
14 - 1304 Ellis Street
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 1Z8
Phone: 762-2163 ☐

Spirit of the Wise

This trio of booklets is the product of a 1992/93 B.C. literacy cost-shared project, "First Nations Literacy Publications," shared by Vancouver Community College and the Native Education Centre in Vancouver.

The project was devised so that students could "produce three publications with themes around the role of Elders and the cultural knowledge they share [and] validate the role of Elders in First Nations culture in order to enhance and reinforce traditional contemporary values and beliefs." By their involvement in the project, students would "gain knowledge and experience in the writing and publication process" in addition to literacy skills.

The three publications contain interviews with native elders -- from B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba -- and are illustrated with black

and white photographs of the interviewees.

To order, contact:

Lix Lopez, Program Coordinator
Native Adult Basic Education Class
Native Education Centre
285 East 5th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5T 1H2
Phone: 873-3761
Fax: 873-9152 ☐

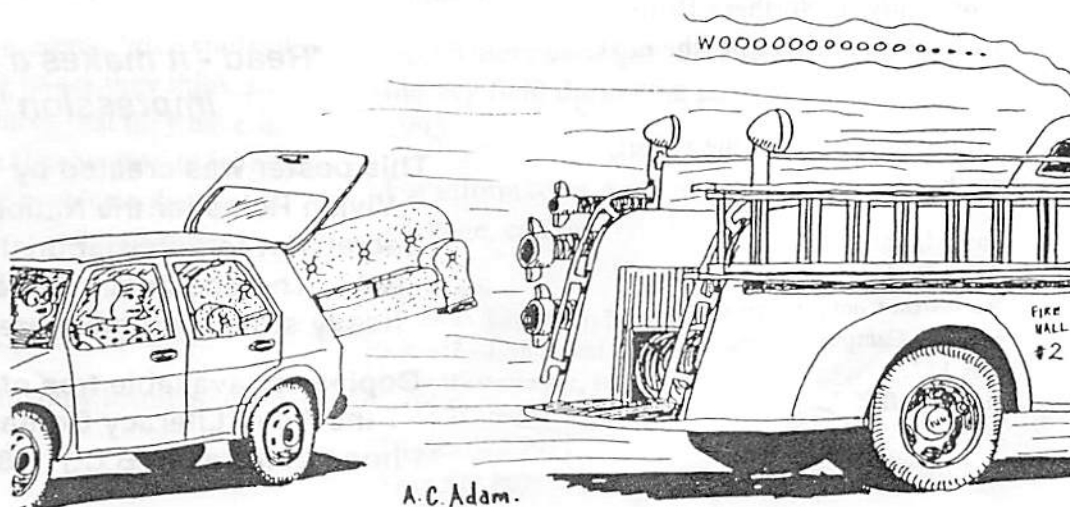
Northern Literacy Conference Report

The report on a conference which brought together for the first time a range of community, government and corporate participants to discuss literacy issues in B.C.'s north is now available.

The conference, called, "The Next Step: A Northern Conference on Literacy," was held March 26-28, 1992 in Houston, B.C. The event was

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Drawing by
Charley Adam
in
Our Words II



"Report" from page 5

sponsored by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; the Ministry of Economic Development, Small Business and Trade; and the National Literacy Secretariat. Additional sponsors were the College of New Caledonia; Northwest Community College; Project Literacy Houston; Literacy B.C.; and Canada Employment Centre - Houston.

Approximately 140 participants attended the conference.

The report contains highlights of six conference work sessions, with topics such as "Communities Working Together" and "Literacy on the Job." It also includes recommendations from two strategy sessions held during the conference to identify "the next step" for literacy in the north. Results of the sessions pointed to the development of a northern literacy network; core funding by government for community-based literacy programs; and support from the University of Northern British Columbia, as some of "the next steps."

To obtain a copy of the report, contact:

Sandi Lavallie, Instructor
Adult Basic Education
Northwest Community College
Houston Campus
Box 1277
Houston, B.C.
Phone: 845-7266
Fax: 845-3521 ☐

Read - it makes a lasting impression



"Read - it makes a lasting impression"

This poster was created by Toronto artist Vivian Reiss for the National Literacy Secretariat for International Literacy Day 1993. The poster is multi-coloured, on heavy stock, and measures 2' x 2'10".

Copies are available free of charge from the Adult Literacy Contact Centre. Phone (toll-free in B.C.) 1-800-663-1293.